



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

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Regional DHS Offices Named, Streamlining Continues

DES MOINES, Iowa – Department of Human Services Director Charles Krogmeier announced Wednesday that Davenport and Council Bluffs will continue to host regional offices on either end of the state. He also outlined a streamlined staffing structure for all five of the new regional offices.

Late last year Krogmeier announced that eight current regional offices would be consolidated to five, including those in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, and Waterloo. He deferred a decision on the remaining two until Wednesday.

“For a variety of logistical reasons, it makes sense to locate the eastern and western regional offices in Davenport and Council Bluffs, respectively,” he said. Regional offices in Sioux City and Dubuque will close.

The decision does not impact the location or hours of operation of the department’s local offices in each of the 99 counties. Those front-line offices will continue to investigate child abuse or neglect, and they will provide assistance for people who qualify for government aid.

Each of the five new regional offices, which officially are formed April 1, will have fewer staff than any of the replaced regional offices, which have between eight and 10 employees each. Service area managers have already been announced for the five offices.

In a message to staff, Krogmeier said the transition will be difficult for some.

“I’m sensitive to the fact that these changes call for difficult decisions for a few of our most talented staff, decisions such as whether to move or in some cases, whether to retire.

“Still, I am convinced that our new structure makes sense, from both a budget and from a performance point of view,” he said. “I’m determined to emerge from this transition with a streamlined management structure that is ready to meet the challenges ahead.”

A few decisions are still yet to be made regarding other streamlining efforts.

Krogmeier previously announced that the department will consolidate the regional child abuse intake function and the childcare payment and eligibility programs.

No decisions have been made on where those operations will be located or how many employees are needed. He said those decisions would be made no later than the beginning of April.

In addition, no decision has been made on the number and location of less-than-full-time offices. Currently 34 of the department’s 99 county offices are open by appointment one or two days a week. Decisions on that will be driven by the budget approved by state policymakers later this spring.

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Editors:

Here is a link to the new regional structure:

<http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/NewServiceAreas.pdf>

Here is a link to the existing regional structure:

http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/Field_Map.pdf

Here is a link to a news release that names the new regional administrators:

http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/nr_executivesnamed.pdf